With the help of Rep. Ed Royce (CA 40) and Rep John Campbell (CA 48) the Upper Newport Bay dredging project will receive $5 million in assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers. In a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers earlier this year, Representatives Royce and Campbell requested the Corps co... With the help of Rep. Ed Royce (CA 40) and Rep John Campbell (CA 48) the Upper Newport Bay dredging project will receive $5 million in assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers.

In a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers earlier this year, Representatives Royce and Campbell requested the Corps consider using surplus funds to continue the important task of dredging Upper Newport Bay in order to restore one of the critical ecological estuaries in Southern California.

The Army Corps of Engineers agreed with the Congressmen on the importance of the project and included the Upper Newport Bay in its 2007 construction work plan which has been presented to Congress.

"The project has significant local support, including Orange County, the California Coastal Commission, several local cities, environmental groups, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries", Congressman Royce said.

The non-federal entities have already raised $13.5 million for the local match.

"The Upper Newport Bay, a 752 acre ecological preserve, is one of the largest, and one of the last, coastal wetlands in Southern California, it is important to protect it," said Congressman Campbell.

The Bay is home to over 75 species of fish, nearly 200 species of birds, and many threatened and endangered species, and is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway for 50,000 migratory birds each year. An Army Corps of Engineers study in 2000 outlined the most effective methods for restoring the Bay. Congress authorized the project in the Water Resources Development Act

of 2000.

Background

*The Upper Newport Bay Project is designed to ensure the long-term viability of this diverse salt marsh ecosystem

*Increase the quantity and quality of wetlands habitat

*Provide critical feeding and resting habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds along the pacific flyway

*Provide a nursery for anadromous fish and other aquatic species

*The project will improve water quality by reducing sediment inflows and algal blooms and preserve both federal and local navigation channels.